

ALASKAN CLAIMS THROWN OUT.

Cunningham Coal Entries Are
Disallowed.

DENOUNCED AS FRAUDS

Pinchot and Glavis Upheld by Decision
of Secretary of Interior—End of
Controversy.

The famous Cunningham Alaskan coal land claims, by means of which, it has been alleged, the Morgan-Guggenheim syndicate had planned to extend their vast interests in Alaska and to control one of the most valuable coal fields in the world, were finally disallowed by the department of the interior.

Secretary of the Interior Walter L. Fisher, having approved the department's decision, as handed down by Fred Dennett, commissioner of the general land office, the last door is believed to have been closed to the Cunningham claimants.

Their attorneys have threatened an appeal to the United States supreme court, but such an appeal can be based only on some point of law involved, and not on the findings of fact as announced by the department.

The Cunningham claims have been in the public eye constantly for more than two years. They brought about the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation by congress and the dismissal from the public service of Gifford Pinchot, as chief forester; John R. Glavis, a chief of field division in the land office, and several minor officials.

Both Pinchot and Glavis were dismissed for insubordination incident to their attacks on former Secretary of the Interior Ballinger, who, they charged, was favorably disposed toward the claims. These claims and the bitter controversy they started, it is believed, had much to do with the resignation of Mr. Ballinger last March as secretary of the interior. One of the first acts of his successor, Mr. Fisher, who is a friend of Pinchot and of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, was to start these claims toward a final decision.

Commissioner Dennett, in his decision holding the claims for cancellation on the ground of fraud, declares that each of the thirty-three entries was improperly allowed because of fatal defects apparent on their face. He asserts that the government conclusively established the charges brought against the claimants, and that there is no doubt but that an agreement existed among them in violation of law.

The thirty-three claims involved amounted to an aggregate area of 5250 acres. The value of the land has been estimated high in the millions. The coal embraced in the claims is said to be among the finest in the world.

Commissioner Dennett makes frequent reference to the work of Glavis in prosecuting the government's case against the Cunningham claimants. He also refers at length to the negotiations between Cunningham and representatives of the Guggenheims, who were shown at the Ballinger-Pinchot hearing to have taken an option on these coal lands, which were to be worked in connection with the other extensive Guggenheim interests in Alaska.

The government charged against Cunningham and his associates that their entries of the coal lands were made in pursuance of an understanding and agreement entered into by all the claimants prior to location, to combine the several claims for the joint use and benefit of all. It was further asserted that the entries were made with the unlawful purpose that they should inure to the use and benefit of an association or corporation.

After reviewing all of the facts brought out, Mr. Dennett reached the conclusion that the claims had no legal standing and ordered them cancelled. Secretary Fisher promptly approved this finding.

1000 Turkish Troops Slain.

Rebels in great force surprised and cut up a Turkish column commanded by Mahomed Ali Pasha outside Gheesan, a town on the Red sea, in Arabia, about 100 miles north of Hodeidah. A thousand Turkish soldiers were killed. Mahomed Ali himself is missing.

The fighting was so desperate and at such close quarters that 500 Turkish fugitives are suffering from serious dagger wounds. The survivors fled in disorder to Gheesan, pursued by the rebels.

The Turkish gunboat Sutebbe, intending to shell the Arabs, shelled Gheesan instead, killing or wounding several hundred of the soldiers.

The rebels captured four big guns, two Maxims, 2000 rifles and a quantity of ammunition and ultimately retired. Gheesan is a seaport of the Turkish vilayet of Yemen, in southwestern Arabia. Yemen is a mountainous district whose people are engaged chiefly in stock raising and who are almost continuously in revolt against Turkish authority.

Find Skeleton at Gettysburg.

While they were doing some work near the Gettysburg, Pa., battlefield, two men came upon the bones of a dead man, supposedly a soldier, near which were a lot of bullets, two Vermont plates, a belt and a cartridge box. The skull was missing, but all the other bones were found.

Mickey's Big Firecracker

TWO mammoth firecrackers stood in the window of Casey's grocery. They were twelve inches long and proportionately thick.

For a month before the Fourth of July these gigantic indicators of enthusiasm had stood in the window like British soldiers on dress parade, while a precatory spider hung a filmy hammock between them and calmly killed his buzzing victims over two powder mines.

The firecrackers were the admiration and the envy of all the boys in Cooney Island. It was seldom that a youthful nose was not flattened against the window pane in ardent covetousness.

But the price demanded by Casey for the thunderers was prohibitive, so far as the boys were concerned, and there was not one of them patriotic or courageous enough to invest 25 cents in a single ecstatic explosion.

Said Mickey Finn timidly one evening when he had been sent by his mother to get a quarter of a pound of tea and half a pound of pork:

"Mr. Casey, I suppose now that when one o' thim big fellows wint off it would blow the stars out of the sky?" his mind filled with blissful thoughts of mighty explosions.

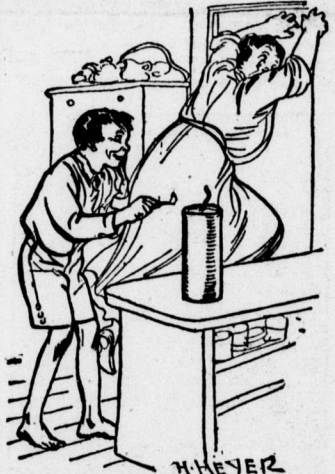
Casey stopped measuring out a half pint of New Orleans molasses, raised a monitory finger and replied:

"Mickey, my boy, I'd be afeerd to tell you what would happen if I stood wan o' thim big fellows out on the sidewalk and touched the stem wid the lighted end of a five cent cigar. The noise would be terrible, my son. 'Twould make your head ring like an anvil, and you would see sparks like fireflies."

"Would it blow the house down?" asked the boy in an awed whisper.

"No, I don't think it would," said Casey. "It might shake the chimney down and break all the glass in the windys in small pieces, and there would be paper in the street as would fill an empty barrel o' flour. Oh, but thim big fellows is mighty powerful, Mickey; mighty powerful. They use them in China to kill murderers and robbers. They put wan o' thim big firecrackers bechune the teeth of a murderer and make him light the fuse wid his own hand and blow his own head off. Thim Chinese is mighty cool, Mickey; mighty cool."

This vivid description inflamed Mickey's desire, which was Casey's motive



"I'LL NIP IT OUT AFORE IT GOES OFF."

in telling it, for the incident occurred on the eve of the Fourth, and Casey was afraid that the big firecrackers would be carried over the national holiday and remain a loss on his hands. In order to deepen the impression already made upon the boy Casey permitted him to handle one of the twins.

The boy's eyes had widened to their utmost capacity when he was outside of the window, but now that he could feel the red jacket his hands trembled with the eagerness of possession, and he would readily have given ten years of his life to own it.

"Take it along wid you, Mickey," said Casey cajolingly. "Thim crackers were made in Chowchow, in China, for the Cooney Island trade, and I want to get rid of thim I have on hand before I send another order to Wan Lung, the haythin."

"But I have no money," said Mickey sorrowfully. "My father is goin' to give me three bunches of little firecrackers and a pinwheel, but I know he wouldn't buy wan o' thim big firecrackers for me."

"Well," continued Casey, "you come down here tomorrow mornin' and carry in a half ton of coal for me, and I'll give you the big cracker."

The next morning Mickey was busy for two hours carrying chestnut coal in a nail keg and dumping it in Casey's cellar. Just after noon, with a smile covered with coal dust and a bosom full of chuckles, he received his prize.

No grass grew beneath his bare feet as he ran homeward, the precious powder mine clasped to his bosom. Holding the big firecracker aloft as he darted through the kitchen door, he exclaimed:

"Mother, I have it! Ain't it a beauty?"

"Well, I don't see anything about it to be makin' a fuss over," said Mrs. Finn, who, like most mothers, had no love for fireworks. "Now, don't be bringin' it nearer to me," as Mickey ran toward her. "I don't want to be blown into the middle o' next week."

Throw the dirty thing away! I'm afeerd o' me life while you have it in your hands! Now, don't be goin' near the stove wid it! Arrah, ye little spalpeen, will ye take it off the stove? Take it off afore ye blow the roof off the house!" And the frightened woman ran into the bedroom and peered through the keyhole.

With the recklessness of boyhood Mickey exclaimed as he lit a match and reduced his mother to hysterics by pretending to light the firecracker stem:

"You needn't be afeerd, mother. I'll nip it out afore it goes off."

In this simple fashion the afternoon of the Fourth passed away in the Finn household, varied by the boy with occasional visits to the neighbors, whom he threw into a panic of fear by pretending to light the big explosive.

Mrs. Murphy and her three children were gathered around the kitchen table when Mickey placed the lighted mammoth in the middle of the table. Two of the boys went head first



PLACED IT UNDER HIS FATHER'S CHAIR.

through the window, while Mrs. Murphy tried to crawl under the kitchen stove.

All this excitement afforded the boy a good deal of delight, but he reserved for the evening the culmination of his joy. He intended to blow his father up as he sat in his chair on the back stoop.

Mickey thought it would be an inspiring sight to witness his father flying across the back yard and plowing up the ground with his nose. In order that he might have an audience appropriate to so great an occasion Mickey had spread the news among all the boys of the neighborhood, and at 9 o'clock fifty boys sat on the fence surrounding the back yard. Mr. Finn, tired of the excitement of the day, had fallen asleep in his rocking chair on the back stoop when Mickey lit the stem of the big cracker and placed it carefully under his father's chair.

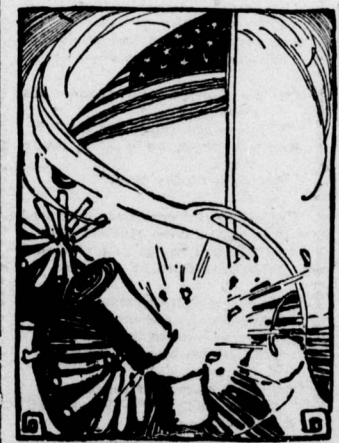
The moon shone brightly, illuminating the grin on every boyish face. Every ear was strained to catch the faint hissing of the fuse and every eye intent upon the sleeping man.

The fuse burned itself out, and the silence and suspense were deepened. A minute passed and another until Mickey could stand the strain no longer. He reached down and lifted the firecracker from beneath the chair.

As he held it up in the moonlight to examine it a mosquito lit upon his father's nose, and the old gentleman awoke. Grabbing the firecracker from his son's hand, he arose and, holding it aloft, said:

"Boys, there will be no explosion tonight. I'm sorry to disappoint you. I was afeerd that Mickey might do some harrum wid that big cracker, so when he wasn't lookin' this afternoon I took the powder out of it and filled it wid clay. So you see that the show is over, and ye may as well go home and go to bed. There'll be no more explosions only what I'll give Mickey wid a shingle afore I turn in. Good night to ye all. Come around some other night when there is somethin' doin'."—Washington Post.

The Patriots.
THE burly cannon cracker to the slender little flag
Said: "How are you to celebrate the day?
You never make a single sound, you cannot jump nor shoot,
And where they put you there you have to stay."



The rockets, roman candles and the giddy, racy wheels
With patriotic zeal began to brag
Of how they'd leap and bang and fizz and flare and whirl, and all
United to deride the silent flag.

But when the day was done the crackers lay in scattered shreds
And bits of wheel were clinging to the trees,
The rocket sticks were lying prone, but high above the scene
The little flag still frolicked with the breeze.

GERMAN EMPEROR DECORATES MORGAN

Delighted With Gift of Luther's
Autograph Letter.

J. Pierpont Morgan presented Emperor William of Germany at Kiel with the autograph letter written by Martin Luther to the Emperor Charles V., and for which the American banker recently paid \$25,500.

His majesty was immensely pleased and forthwith conferred the grand cross of the Order of the Red Eagle on Mr. Morgan. This is the second highest order of knighthood in the gift of the German crown.

The letter, which is in Latin, is of great historical importance. It was written in 1521 during the reformer's return journey from the Diet of Worms and described the proceedings and defended his attitude. The letter never reached the emperor, as its contents were such that no one dared deliver it.

A Florence dealer, representing Mr. Morgan, obtained the epistle at an autograph sale at Leipzig, May 3.

As soon as it became known that the document was to go to America the announcement of the German public was expressed in many newspaper editorials.

GENERAL MARKETS

PHILADELPHIA — FLOUR dull; winter clear, \$3.40@3.80; city mills, fancy, \$5.25@5.80.

RYE FLOUR steady; per barrel, \$5@5.25.

WHEAT steady; No. 2 red, 89@90c. CORN firm; No. 2 yellow, 63½@64c.

OATS firm; No. 2 white, 48@48½c; over grades, 46½c.

POULTRY: Live steady; hens, 14½@15c; old roosters, 10@11c. Dressed steady; choice fowls, 15c; old roosters, 10c.

BUTTER firm; extra creamery, 25½c. per lb.

EGGS steady; selected, 21@23c; nearby, 18c; western, 18c.

POTATOES steady; old, per bushel, \$1@1.10; new, \$2.25@4.50 per barrel.

Live Stock Markets.

PITTSBURG (Union Stock Yards)—CATTLE higher; choice, \$6.40@6.60; prime, \$5.90@6.10.

SHEEP higher; prime wethers, \$3.80@4; culls and common, \$1@2; spring lambs, \$4@7; veal calves, \$8@8.25.

HOGS higher; prime heavies, \$6.65; mediums, heavy and light Yorkers, \$6.80@6.85; pigs, \$6.70@6.80.

Powder Trust Must Dissolve.

Judges Gray, of Wilmington; Bufington, of Pittsburg, Pa., and Lanning, of Trenton, N. J., filed an opinion in the United States circuit court in Wilmington, Del., declaring that the Dupont Powder company and twenty-seven other companies and individuals are guilty of "maintaining a combination in restraint of interstate commerce in powder and other explosives," and ordered that it be dissolved.

The bills against United States Senator Henry A. Dupont and fourteen other defendants were dismissed. This is the celebrated suit of the government against the powder trust for alleged violation of the Sherman anti-trust act.

The court has fixed Oct. 16 as the date for hearing arguments as to how the combination shall be dissolved.

In his decision Judge Lanning decides that a number of companies forming the combination have committed certain acts which make it illegal and in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

The decision, following closely upon those of the supreme court in the tobacco and Standard Oil cases, is regarded as a great victory for the government. The trial of the powder case, begun in Wilmington in 1907, attracted widespread attention. Hearings before United States commissioners were held in half a dozen cities and a great mass of testimony was taken.

Found Dead in Cistern.

Peter Larson, a retired and wealthy farmer, was found dead in a cistern in the rear of his home, near Fowler, Ind., and Mrs. Larson is under arrest pending an examination.

The top of Larson's head had been chapped off with an axe, there were several cuts and gashes on the skull and it was crushed in other places.

The testimony taken by the coroner is conflicting, but appearances indicate that Larson was injured in the stable and either was dragged or dragged himself to the cistern.

Larson and his wife had been quarreling all night. In the morning Mrs. Larson went to a neighbor and said her husband had left the house and she didn't know where to find him. The neighbor went to the Larson house, and in the barn found a pool of blood and a bloody axe lying on the ground. The stalls and walls of the barn were spattered with blood.

Poisonous Berries Kill Boy.

Theodore Lucas, five years old, died in great agony from poisonous berries eaten while wandering in the woods near Hornell, N. J.

CHEAP CANDY KILLS GIRL

Died of Ptomaine Poisoning a Few Hours After Eating It.

As the result of ptomaine poisoning, which developed a few hours after she had eaten candy, Mary Evans, one and a half years old, died in the Crozier hospital, in Chester, Pa.

She and her sister, Ida Evans, two and a half years old, were admitted to the institution together. The latter is recovering.

The girls bought ten cents' worth of cheap candy. They were seized with violent coming spells during the night. Dr. Robert S. Malson, who was summoned, says:

"Of course, it is not always possible in these cases to ascertain the truth, but this looks very suspicious, and I believe it is a case for investigation. The coloring matter shows every indication that it caused the ptomaine poisoning."

FIERCE RACE RIOT

Four Fatally Hurt in Fight in West Virginia.

Four Italians were fatally wounded and four other men were hurt in a race riot between Americans and Italians at a point between Weaver and Junior, W. Va.

The trouble has been in progress between the two factions for some days. An argument was started and this was the direct cause of the riot. The sheriff and a force of ninety men are on the scene, where they intend to remain until the trouble is at an end.

Attacked by a Snake.

Attacked by a large serpent while fishing in a lake on the Zurnovian farm, a rifle shot saved B. M. Smith, of Lansdale, Pa., from serious injury.

Mr. Smith was quietly moving about the shore, when suddenly the serpent sprang from a clump of bushes and with open mouth dashed toward him. Recognizing the snake to be of a dangerous species, Mr. Smith ran for his rifle. He had only time to turn and take aim, for the maddened reptile was following him so closely that it appeared to be making ready to spring upon him, when a well directed bullet pierced its head.

Mr. Smith found that it was a water moccasin, a very poisonous serpent, belonging to the species of the reptile family which inhabit the extreme southern part of the United States and is rarely found in this section. The snake measured over four feet in length and four inches across the broadest part of its back.

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